

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 24 No. 1

January 15, 1956

Whole No. 280

## The James Boys in the Saddle Again

by J. Edward Leithead



Cover of No. 2 Adventure Series

Published by Arthur Westbrook Company, Cleveland, Ohio  
(From the LeBlanc collection)



## The James Boys in the Saddle Again

by J. Edward Leithead

Second of a series of articles about famous bandits and badmen of the Old West in dime novels.

The Adventure Series (Arthur Westbrook Co.), a paper-backed book series with colored covers—well-drawn, and in keeping with the text showing the outlaws as a desperate-looking lot, often masked—contained mostly stories of the James Boys and other old-time Western outlaws.

#2 of this series was entitled, *The James Boys and Their Outlaw Band of Border Bandits in Old Missouri*. Good cover illustration of the gang holding up a train. The author is given as William Ward (probably a stock name) and it is a biography, very well written. It bears a copyright, 1907, by Winn & Judson. #6 was *The Younger Brothers, the Border Outlaws*, another biography by William Ward. There were biographies of other outlaws that I shall mention later.

#9 begins the long run of James-Younger gang stories: *Jesse James' Dash for Fortune*, or, *The Raid on the Kansas City Fair*. (Based on a true incident—the outlaws made a haul of \$10,000 in this bold robbery, snatching the cash box with the gate receipts as a messenger was taking it to the bank. William Ward's name appears as author on this and all books

in the series that follow).

#10—*Jesse James, Knight-Errant*, or, *The Rescue of the Queen of the Prairies*. (While the James Boys were in the Southwest, after their escape from the Northfield bank robbery, a Mexican cattle thief named Bastenado—or Bustenado—forded the Rio Grande with his gang, lifted a bunch of cattle and also the daughter of a Scotch rancher, Alice Gordon. Frank and Jesse led a charge on the rustlers, killed Bastenado, got back the girl and the stolen cows).

#11—*Jesse James' Midnight Raid*, or, *The Fight at Battle Mountain*.

(Battle Mountain was a wild gold town in Nevada, visited by the James Boys while absent from home for various reasons. They got into a row with the gambling element over a cold deck, and the former Quantrill riders gave a good account of themselves).

#12—*Jesse James' Greatest Haul*, or, *The Daylight Robbery of the Russellville Bank*. (The bank was located at Russellville, Kentucky. Jesse James, Cole Younger and the Shepherd brothers were in this daylight raid, but it's not certain that Frank James was along. The bank cashier, named

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Long, was roughly handled but not killed).

#13—Jesse James' Revenge, or, The Hold-Up of the Train at Independence. (Happened in the vicinity of Independence, Missouri, where the outlaws had pulled hold-ups before. Evidently a James-Younger job, for the gang was said to number a dozen).

#14—Jesse James' \$100,000 Robbery, or, The Hold-Up of the Chicago & Alton Train. (Apparently the story of two different train robberies, the one at Big Springs, Nebraska, netting the bandits \$100,000 in Wells Fargo money and valuables taken from passengers—one account states the Sam Bass Gang, not the James Boys, were the robbers; the other at Glendale, flag-station on the Chicago & Alton, the way-safe of the train yielding better than \$35,000 at the muzzles of outlaw six-shooters).

#15—Jesse James' Nemesis, or, The Pinkertons' Oath. (The Pinkerton detective agency made every effort to break up the James-Younger gang. Detectives Lull and Daniels, working for the agency, met death in a shoot-out with the Youngers. A third, Detective Witcher, fell into the hands of the James Boys and Clell Miller, and no doubt succeeded a rough time before they finished him).

#16—Jesse James' Terrible Raid, or, The Extermination of the Mexican Bandits. (More adventures of the James Boys when they fled to the Southwest and Old Mexico. There were plenty of bad outfits on both sides of the Rio Grande, and a roosting-place for them was Piedras Negras; but the Missouri boys proved more than a match for them, even against heavy odds. It was at this time, probably, that Frank and Jesse came to use Winchester repeaters extensively, as well as their belt-guns).

#17—Jesse James' Boast, or, Who Killed Daniel Askew? (Askew, a farmer and neighbor of the Jameses and Dr. Samuels', was suspected of aiding Pinkerton detectives against the bandit brothers, and one night was shot down while drawing water from the well near his house. Three

bullets drilled him, and, though never proved, it was believed the James Boys and Clell Miller fired them).

#18—Jesse James' Desperate Game or, The Robbery of the Ste. Genevieve Bank. (Bank located at Ste. Genevieve, Missouri—a savings association whose membership included about every citizen of the town. But five of the James-Younger band were in this holdup: Jesse James, two of the Youngers, Bill Chadwell and Clell Miller. Some powder was burned, but nobody killed. It was one occasion when the amount of loot was disappointing to the bandits).

#19—Jesse James' Long Chance, or, The Robbery of the Northfield Bank. This robbery broke up the James-Younger combination, took the Youngers out of the stand-and-deliver game for good and got Clell Miller and Bill Chadwell tickets to boot hill).

#20—Jesse James' Battle for Freedom, or, The Fight at Montclava. (Based on the fatal fandango at Montclava (or Montclava), Mexico, mentioned earlier in this article. An American present knew the outlaw brothers, went to the military barracks, and a Mexican officer, with a detail, returned to the house where the dance was being held. When called upon to surrender, Jesse insisted the room first be cleared of the ladies. It was done. Immediately afterward, a gun was in Jesse's hand and the officer dropped. That set off the desperate fight for freedom, ending with Frank and Jesse in saddles and fading into the blackness of night).

#21—Jesse James, Gentleman, or, The Hold-Up of the Mammoth Cave Stage. (This occurred in Kentucky, was one of numerous stagecoach stickups, not so profitable to the outlaws as train and bank robberies. Apparently only Frank and Jesse James were involved).

#22—Jesse James' Bluff, or, The Escape from the Chinese Highbinders. (Evidently not founded on fact, as I can find no record of the James Boys ever having tangled with Chinese Highbinders in factual accounts.)

#23—#Jesse James' Wild Night,



or, The Wrecking of the Rock Island Train. (Took place not far from Council Bluffs, Iowa, the engine being derailed and John Rafferty, the engineer, killed in the crash.)

#24—Jesse James' Brutal Shot, or, The Murder in the Gallatin Bank. (Another savings bank at Gallatin, Missouri. Three outlaws in this hold-up, presumably the James Boys and Cole Younger. The bank cashier, Captain John W. Sheets, although he made no attempt to impede the desperadoes, was six-shootered by one of them after the loot had been taken. Supposedly this was Jesse James, and the killing looked like a case of mistaken identity—as though Jesse had thought Sheets was a Lieutenant Cox, credited with shooting a guerrilla comrade of the Jameses, Bloody Bill Anderson.)

#25—Jesse James' Daylight Foray, or, The Looting of the Bank at Corydon, Iowa. (The James-Younger gang collected about \$40,000 this time, apparently without firing a shot; though in the fictionized version you may be sure guns blazed.)

#26—Jesse James' Threat, or, The Hold-Up of the Train at Winston. (Another Rock Island train held up, this time at Winston, Missouri. In the smoking car, William Westfall, the conductor, was murdered, and McMillan, a passenger, apparently felled by a wild bullet. It is believed that Frank James shot Westfall. Later, in the express-car, Charles Murray, the express messenger, was knocked out with a Colt-barrel for putting up resistance.)

#27—Jesse James' Midwinter Lark, or, The Plundering of the Iron Mountain Train. (At Gad's Hill, Missouri, the James-Younger band boarded the train. Besides looking for loot, the outlaws were looking for a certain party whom they very much wanted to "get" and asked the male passengers their names. But Allan Pinkerton, the famous detective, was not on that train.)

#28—Jesse James' Mistake, or, Foiled by Death. (Good story, but not based on any actual happening I know of.)

#29—Jesse James' Race for Life, or, Trailed by Vigilantes. (May be based on the James Boys' experiences in California, but not sure.)

#30—Jesse James' Ruse, or, The Mystery of the Two Highwaymen. (Not sure if based on true incident.)

#31—Jesse James' Bold Stroke, or, The Double Bank Robbery. (Not sure about this one, either. Even the James-Younger gang usually took 'em one at a time.)

#32—Jesse James' Midnight Attack, or, The Bandits' Revenge on the Vigilantes. (Not sure of any factual material in this tale, though a good story like the rest.)

#33—Jesse James' Daring Joke, or, The Kidnapping of a Bank President. (Can't discover that the James Boys ever did this, though it would have been like them.)

#34—Jesse James' Blackest Crime, or, The Destruction of the Overland Stage. (Looks like fiction, no fact, throughout.)

#35—Jesse James' Nerve, or, The Hold-Up of the Missouri Pacific Train. (Sometimes called "the Rocky Cut train robbery" because it happened at that place in Missouri. On the bridge spanning the river, the bandits took the watchman's lantern to signal the train. Two accounts state that Sam Bass, himself a well-known outlaw, was with the James-Younger gang in this robbery. But most accounts do not mention Bass, and to me it seems unlikely he ever was with the James Boys.)

#36J—Jesse James' Narrow Escape, or, Ensnared by a Woman Detective. (Not much fact, if any, in this one.)

#37—Jesse James' Last Chance, or, Outwitting the Secret Service Posse. (The James-Younger gang drew the Federal officers after them by rifling mail trains.)

#38—Jesse James' Surprise, or, The Looting of the Huntingdon Bank. (At Huntington, West Virginia. Just two of the four bank looters were from the regular James-Younger band—Frank James and Cole Younger. Tom McDaniels, brother of Bud McDaniels, was along and got his



come-uppance in the long, determined chase by possemen.)

#39—Jesse James' Legacy, or, Winning Through Death. (No foundation in fact that I can discover. Is this a reprint of Log Cabin Library #225, Jesse James' Legacy, or, The Border Cyclone, by T. W. Hanshaw?)

#40—Jesse James' Silver Trail, or, The Plundering of the Mexican Muleteers. (Harking back to the time of the James Boys' flight to Mexico. The outlaws raided the pack-train of silver ore not far from the Rio Grande, on the Mexican side of the river.)

#41—Jesse James' Ring of Death, or, The Fate of the Texas Rangers. (No record I can find of their fighting the Texas Rangers, very risky business even for the James Boys.)

#42—Jesse James' Mysterious Foe, or, The Pursuit of the Man in Black. (All fiction, I believe, and introducing Jeff Clayton, the detective, who was the hero of a detective series following the outlaw series in this library.)

#43—Jesse James' Fate, or, The End of the Crimson Trail. (Last of the outlaw series, Jesse rides no more.)

The Arthur Westbrook Company were successors to M. J. Ivers & Company and used a good bit of reprint material.

To be continued

The next issue of the Dime Novel Round-up will contain the Membership List and "Rover Boy Carl Linville" by Charlie Duprez. The March issue will contain the completion of Mr. Leithead's current article.

#### ODD DIME NOVEL FACTS

By Howard B. Silsbee

Yellow journalism as a term came indirectly (via England) from the Saffron or "yellow" colored Beadles Dime Novels.

The bonanza for Beadle came when their "Dime Novels" went to the soldiers in the Civil War by the carloads. They were read, reread and traded with the Confederates; they

were found blood spattered and often buried with their unfortunate owners.

The real startling thing about Beadle's first Dime Novels was that they revolutionized publishing—good stories suddenly were cut in price from \$1.00 or \$1.50 to a dime.

The Dime Novels in mass production were the first widely read literature for the common man in America and since has formed the basic theme tastes of American reading—Indians, wild west, adventure, detective, athletics, historical sagas, etc.

No dime novel ever had the advertising of Beadles "Seth Jones". On barns, on fences, on streets, it was pictured months before publication.

The first printed colored covered series was Tip Top Weekly in 1896.

Members are invited to contribute items for insertion in this column. They can be sent directly to Mr. Silsbee at 85 Boyden Ave., Maplewood, N. J., or to the editor who will forward them on.

#### NEWSY NEWS

By Ralph F. Cummings  
Fisherville, Mass.

Don S. Learnard, 154 Belmont St., Weymouth 88, Mass. was here November 29th for a visit of a few hours. We sure enjoyed talking to each other over the old timers, I'll say. Too bad we don't live nearer.

Wallace H. Waldrop says in No. 9 of Cody of the Pony Express, as published by Charlton Comics, there is a fine article on the life of "Buffalo Bill," as well as another fine article on him as an author which has a lot of dope on the Beadle Publishing Co. This comic may still be on the newsstands, if not, write the editor of this column, and I'll try to get a copy for you.

Bob Smeltzer says he is in the depths of that wonderful dime novel by Capt. Mayne Reid, "The Scalp Hunters". Bob says so far it is only interesting but very instructive on the primitive customs of years ago, Indians and hardy adventurers. The book runs to 460 pages and is profusely illustrated with those entranc-



ing wood-cuts, pictures of the past.

George Sahr in a reminiscing mood writes "I remember when I was going to school in Chicago I used to read novels and my favorites were Frank Reade and Jack Wright. I especially enjoyed the stories of their adventures in the far north and with my feet close to the oven of the old cook stove, I sure had a great time. The thrill that comes once in a life time. Those were the happy days. The good old coal stove with the old kettle bubbling away for fair. Made you feel real comfortable on a winter night. I still read stories of my favorite inventors, Frank and Jack and try to recapture the days of my youth, there's such a gap between 14 years and 63 years."

Let's ask Ralph Adimare to do an article on the Tousey writers for the Roundup? We are sure he can do it, what do you say, Ralph?

What do you know, J. P. Guinon and Roy Swanstrom were within a stone's throw of each other, down in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida last summer, and didn't even know it. What a time these two fellows could have had, something they would never forget.

Those things do happen, and let's hope if both are around, and can meet each other next summer, that they will make up for last time, with a good Tip Top or other diet of old, so I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

L. D. Webster is having trouble with cataracts in his eyes, and is taking drops to try and delay them, if possible.

Let's all wish him the best of everything in getting rid of them. Seems funny, as we all grow older, we have some thing to mar our old age when we get over 50. Seems so just when we can enjoy our selves, some thing comes along.

Anyone having U. S. gold pieces in good condition, write to Frisco Bert Couch, P. O. Box 445, San Anselmo, Calif. as he is making a collection of them, and pays good prices.

Eli A. Messier says there was a fine article that came out in the Providence, R. I. Sunday Journal, Nov. 13th, 1955 on "Buffalo Bill." No

Tinsel, No Gilding, No Humbug. By Robert L. Wheeler, that came out in "Buffalo Bill and the Wild West" by Henry Blackman Sell and Victor Weybright, 278 pages. Oxford University Press. \$6.95. Should be good.

Frank Henry sent in a copy of The Boston Evening American, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 1955. It has a fine article on "The Merriwells Again" by Alan Frazer. Another fine article came out on Nov. 27th on the Merriwells.

Harry A. Weill is planning on having a fine article in Roundup, some day. So we all wait with bated breath, to see what he is going to have.

Get a copy of the "News From Home," if you can, for winter, 1955. Write Kenneth H. Dunshee, 59 Maiden Lane, New York 8, N. Y. for a copy. I don't know what he'll charge, I'm sure. On page 13, a fine article on "Filing in the Spaces" on the old time nickel novels, on 3 pages, well illustrated, and worthy of anyone's collection.

To complete my sets, I need the following numbers of Joe Parks Vanity Fair, also Collectors Miscellany. 1st Series Vanity Fair, Vol. 1, Nos. 1 to 15 inc. Collectors Miscellany—1st Series #7 to 12—2nd Series 2-5-6-14-15. 3rd Series 14 and 22. 4th Series 8 to end. 5th Series, various Nos. Send list to editor of this column.—Ralph F. Cummings.

Anyone interested in Tip Tops, Wild Wests, Work & Wins, Pluck & Lucks, Nick Carters, Buffalo Bills, All Sports, Young Athletes, Secret Service, Fame & Fortune, Motor Stories, etc. Send your want lists to the editor of this column.

We want to wish one and all a very happy New Year and any one I missed sending Christmas cards to, it was done unintentionally.

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#### MERRIWELL STORIES

Will pay \$250 for the first 60 issues of Tip Top in nice, original condition, and \$5.00 each for many Nos. between 3 and 58. Have many early and late numbers for sale.

**Guinon**

Box 214

Little Rock, Ark.



**EXCHANGE COLUMN**

Wanted—Merriwell Series, thick size Nos. 88 and 153. Irving Warshaw, Anchor Book Shop, 114 4th Ave., New York, N. Y.

To trade—Happy Days. 35 numbers in runs of 5 to 11 between Nos. 1439 to 1485. What novels do you have to offer? Robert H. Smeltzer, 3432 No. Bodine St., Philadelphia 40, Pa.

Wanted to buy or borrow—Anybody got a copy of Sears Roebuck OR Montgomery Ward catalog printed between 1900 and 1910? Frisco Bert. Box 445, San Anselmo, Calif.

Wanted—New Tip Top #74; Tip Top #14, 25, 35, 38, 43, 48, 120, 133, 297, 722. Liberty Boys #250 to 300. Eli A. Messier, Box 1122, Woonsocket, R. I.

Wanted—Golden Hours, Cash or trade. Good trade offer. P. J. Moran, 1159 Bonita Lane, Walnut Creek, Calif.

**WANTED**

Old Dime and Nickel Novels, large or small size, with or without covers, poor or fair condition, also old Police Gazette type newspapers. What have you?

**A-1 BOOKSTORES**

509 No. State St., Chicago 10, Ill.

**WANTED**

Liberty Boys of 76 #94, The Liberty Boys Best Blow, or Beating the British at Bennington, or 585. The Liberty Boys and the Yankee Peddler, or Sharp Work at Bennington.

**JOHN C. KUNZOG**

36 Norton Ave., Jamestown 29, N. Y.

**MAGIC AND PUZZLES**

WANTED! Old American and English "Handbooks" published by Tousey, Ogilvie, Benedict, Lupton, Aldine, etc. on Conjuring, Magic Tricks, Puzzles, Hand Shadows, etc. All Old puzzles wanted. T. S. Ransom, 344 Front St., Belleville, Ont., Canada.

**MEMBERSHIP CHANGES**

- 194. Leonard Lautenburger, 27 Prospect St., Dumont, N. J. (New member)
- 195. Mrs. Earl Miller, RD #4 Heacock Rd., Alliance, Ohio (New member)
- 196. Joseph Krajic, 2518 7th St. S. W., Canton, Ohio (Old member)
- 197. William L. Newman, A-1 Bookstores, 509 N. State St., Chicago, Ill. (Old member)

**FOR SALE**

Now's the time to get photographic pictures of old nickel novels while you can at 10¢ each, while they last. All are nice and clear and worthy of any ones collection. Size 3½x4¼ inches or thereabouts, such as:

Pluck and Luck, Nos. 1 to 100—a few nos. after 106.

Tip Top Library and Weeklies too—1 to 264, etc., some higher.

Buffalo Bill Stories, Bowery Boy, James Boys Weekly, Jesse James Stories, Frank Reade Weekly Magazines, Frank Reade Stories in Wide Awake Library, Comic Library, Fame & Fortune Weekly, Secret Service, Snaps, Red Raven, Paul Jones, Shield, Wild West Weekly, Work & Win, Liberty Boys of '76, Three Chums, Diamond Dicks, Handsome Harry, Secret Service Terror Tales, 6 sets of Shield 1 to 22, Three Chums 1 to 60.) Pluck & Luck 1 to 140. New Nick Carter, American Indian Weekly 1 to 31 — What do you need? What do you Want?

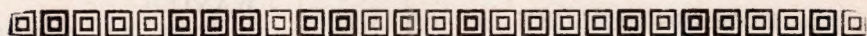
Why not let me fix you up with, say one of each of the above 23 for only \$2.00. Can you beat that, I don't think you can, for it costs more than that to get even your picture taken nowadays.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

**RALPH F. CUMMINGS**

Fisherville 3, Mass., U. S. A.





## DIME NOVELS FOR SALE

Postpaid. Subject to prior sale.

Some issues of the following are higher priced than listed.

- Old Sleuth's Own. Original issue, Parlor Car Publishing Co. Good copies 50¢.  
Fair, 3 for 50¢.
- Old Sleuth's Own. Ogilvie. 25¢ each. Fair copies, 10¢ each.
- Three Chums. Good \$1.50 each. Fair or average copies, less.
- Buffalo Bill Stories. Good \$2.00 each. Fair or avg., less.
- Secret Service. Large size later issues. Good \$1.25.
- Liberty Boys. Large size later issues. Good \$1.25.
- Fame and Fortune, Work and Win, Wild West, small size, 10 for \$2.50.
- Pluck & Luck, Liberty Boys, Secret Service, small size, 10 for \$3.50.
- Wild West, Work and Win, Fame & Fortune, late issues, large 5 for \$2.50.
- Pluck and Luck, large size, late issues, 5 for \$3.75.
- Beadle's Frontier. Fair or worn, 10 for \$1.00.
- Merriwells in original Medal and New Medal Libr. \$1.00 up.
- New Tip Top 50¢ each.
- Tip Top below #300. Send want list of early numbers.
- Deadwood Dick Library, 64 numbers complete. Westbrook \$10.00.  
Ivers blue covers \$8.00. Ivers tri-colored heading, \$15.00.
- Frank Starr Illustrated Novels, \$2.00.
- Beadle Cheap Edition Popular Authors. \$2.50, average to good.  
\$1.50 bound in boards. \$1.00 no back cover.
- American Tales. First series. No back covers. \$2.50 each.  
Second series \$3.00, average copies. No back covers, \$2.00.
- Fireside Series—"The Ivory Hunters" \$3.00.
- Nickel Library \$2.00 each.
- Lovel! Library. 27 Gustave Aimard's novels, \$40.00.
- Ivers Laughing Series. Complete set. 16 nos. \$20.00. Single copies, \$1.25 each.
- Popular Recitations (1888-1891) #1 to 22. The lot, \$15.00.
- Beadle's Boys Library of Sport, Pastime and Adventure. Ivers. Complete set  
64 numbers, \$100.00.
- Happy Days #829 to 853 bound \$7.50. #879 to 928 bound \$15.00. #1005 to  
1056 bound \$15.00.
- Comic Library. #135 and 136, \$3.00. #145 and 146, \$4.00. #165, \$2.50. #169,  
\$2.00. #170, \$1.50. (5 fair nos. for \$5.00)
- Wide Awake Library #1225 to 1253, \$12.00.  
(10 fair assorted kinds of stories, W. A. Libr. \$3.50)
- Snaps. Good \$3.00. Average \$1.50.
- Pluck and Luck #28, 63, 82, 87, 146. Good. \$2.00 each.

**RALPH P. SMITH**

Box 985

Lawrence, Mass.

